

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Sheep Mineral Supplement / Management

Project No. 09-101

Region/GMU: Region 1, GMU 27

HPC: Springerville/Alpine

Project Type:

Project Description:

This project will allow the Department to better manage the Bighorn herds in Unit 27. We will be able to continue a program of packing mineral blocks into seven locations throughout the Bear Canyon and Foote Creek areas of Unit 27. These mineral blocks are to provide a supplement to the bighorn sheep. Initial review of the last three years supplement provision leads agency personnel to believe there may be at least some correlation to placing these supplements and increased lamb recruitment. This will additionally assist the Department in completing surveys throughout several areas of Unit 27.

Wildlife Species to Benefit: Bighorn Sheep, Mule Deer, Whitetail Deer, Elk

Possible Funding Partners:

Implementation Schedule:

Beginning: Immediately

Completed: 2010

NEPA Compliance: (if applicable)

Completed: Yes ____ No ____

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing annually

PROJECT FUNDING

SBG Funds Requested: \$2,091.00 (25+ days of horseback sheep management)

Cost Share Funds: \$2,500.00 (G&F hours, mileage, and per diem)

Total Project Costs: \$4,591.00

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant: Aaron Hartzell

(please print)

Telephone: 928-333-2827

Address: 2878 E. White Mountain Blvd

Pinetop, AZ 85935

AGFD Contact and Phone No.

(If applicant is not AGFD personnel)

Coordinated with:

Date:

Applicant's signature:

Date:

**SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:
Game Branch**

(revised 7-02-2007)

2221 W. Greenway Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85023
mdisney@azgfd.gov

WAS PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE LOCAL HPC? YES X NO

HAS PROJECT BEEN SUBMITTED IN PREVIOUS YEARS? IF SO WAS IT FUNDED?

The project had been submitted and funded in 2008.

NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

The Department would like to continue providing supplemental minerals into seven areas of the Foote Creek and Bear Canyon areas. In order to ensure that we can continue this work the region is looking for assistance to provide the funds necessary to accomplish this goal. In 2008 the department received funding for one horse allotment as well as funding for one pallet of mineral blocks. This pallet of mineral blocks should last approximately three years. We currently ride approximately 35 horse days of sheep survey and management related activities within the Bear Canyon, Foote Creek, and Black River sheep management areas. In order to continue this program as well as to ensure other management related activities we are seeking funds to the equivalent of one horse allotment (minimum of 25 horse use days) to ensure continued availability of horse days to complete all of these critical activities (\$2091.00).

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Deliver traced mineralized salt blocks to seven sites within the Bear Canyon and Foote Creek areas and evaluate the effect of those supplements on the bighorn sheep recruitment within the sheep population. Additionally, gather the best data possible about these herds through comprehensive survey efforts.

PROJECT STRATEGIES:

We hope to continue packing mineral blocks into five areas in the Foote Creek area and two areas of the Bear Canyon area. These blocks will provide a supplement to the bighorn sheep's diet in these areas. Additionally, we will again conduct surveys in these areas and Black River to gather information on the health of the heard and the potential effect of these mineral blocks.

PROJECT LOCATION:

Foote creek and Bear Canyon areas of Unit 27.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name):

USFS lands

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

The habitat can best be described as pinyon-juniper woodland with ponderosa pine stringers in the bottoms. Additionally most of the area is composed of rocky escarpments that are ideal sheep habitat.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

One year horse allotment: \$2,091.00

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Cooperators include the Arizona Game and Fish Department as well as the US Forest Service. We will continue to coordinate survey dates with Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society personal to assist in survey efforts where and when possible.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

The local Wildlife Manager will evaluate use at least annually to determine if more mineral blocks need to be placed at the established locations. Additionally, through annual sheep surveys we will be able to determine the annual lamb recruitment. Game cameras will also be placed on a number of the different mineral salts to determine the extent of use as well.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

Mineral blocks will be replaced as needed. This will be a yearly request for continued sheep management activities. The amount requested will be the current equivalent to one horse allotment and additional traced mineralized salt when necessary.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Updates will be given out annually by the local wildlife manager.

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):